

Political Tidbits

Pombo announces Women's Leadership Summit attendees

Congressman Richard Pombo today announced the following attendees of the National Women's Leadership Summit:

- Linda Abeldt, Manteca Convention & Visitors Bureau, Manteca, CA
- Lynette Cleland, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Stockton, CA
- Sherry Cotta, Cotta Vineyards/Lodi District Chamber of Commerce, Galt, CA
- Carol Davis, Give Every Child a Chance, Manteca, CA
- Susan Dell'Osso, River Islands, Lathrop, CA
- Julia Greene, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stockton, CA
- Janet Lilly, African-American Chamber of Commerce, Stockton, CA
- Angeline McKinney, United Way of San Joaquin County, Stockton, CA
- Jan Young, Bank of Lodi, Elk Grove, CA

"These ladies have been successful leaders in our community for some time," Pombo noted. "I'm proud of the accomplishments they have made and know they will represent our community well. I congratulate them on this honor."

The summit, to take place May 13 - 14 in Washington, D.C., will focus on subjects such as: "Education: Strengthening Our Schools," "National Security: Winning Against Terrorism," and "Environment: Safeguards Using Science." Speakers include Mrs. Lynne Cheney, Int. Sec. Gale Norton and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Finally, water for farmers

It has been a long road for farmers in the Klamath Basin along the California and Oregon border, but finally it looks as if their water supplies will keep flowing and their communities will be spared more devastation from reductions in water.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Sandra Armstrong turned back efforts by environmentalists, Native Americans and fishermen to keep more water in the Klamath River, which would reduce water for farmers who are dependent on water released by the federal Bureau of Reclamation. Last year, the federal government shut off the water to the 1,400 farms there so that water levels in the Klamath Lake would rise and protect populations of suckerfish and coho salmon.

Reprinted from the Orange County Register

Know thy enemy

The Wilderness Society has announced a fund-raising campaign to stop Interior Secretary Gale Norton from eliminating "special protections placed on America's last remaining roadless areas in our national forests."

The only problem is that Mrs. Norton protects national parks, not forests. Trees are left to Ag. Sec. Ann Veneman, whose department oversees the US Forest Service.

Reprinted from the Washington Times

Don't have a cow, man

The SF Chronicle reports that the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals have filed a false-advertisement complaint against the California Milk Advisory Board for its 'Happy Cows' ad campaign. PETA argues that dairy cows actually are sad.

Reprinted from OpinionJournal.com

Taxing your way to better health

California State Sen. Deborah Ortiz, Democrat, introduced legislation that would raise taxes on all sugared soft drinks. Her goal, she says, is to reduce consumption of such products among youth in order to help control obesity.

Reprinted from the Washington Times Weekly

Congressman Richard W. Pombo
11th District, California
2411 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1947
www.house.gov/pombo

Today in History

1429 - Joan of Arc defeated the besieging English at Orleans.

1502 - Christopher Columbus left Spain for his final trip to the Western Hemisphere.

1785 - Joseph Bramah patented the beer-pump handle.

1941 - The German submarine U-110 was captured by Britain's Royal navy.

1945 - U.S. officials announced that the midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

1955 - West Germany joined NATO.

1962 - A laser beam was successfully bounced off Moon for the first time.

1962 - Dave Gahan (Depeche Mode) was born

1974 - The House Judiciary Committee began formal hearings on the Nixon impeachment.

1994 - Nelson Mandela was chosen to be South Africa's first black president.

1996 - In video testimony to a courtroom in Little Rock, AR, U.S. President Clinton insisted that he had nothing to do with a \$300,000 loan in the criminal case against his former Whitewater partners.

2000 - A U.S. federal appeals court upheld a \$5.4 million jury decision that Michael Bolton had plagiarized parts of the song "Love is a Wonderful Thing." The original song was released in 1966 by the Isley Brothers.

From www.on-this-day.com

Political Tidbits cont.

Oracle deal a rush job, lawyer testifies

A state lawyer testified Monday that she was given just hours to review a hastily drafted contract with Oracle Corp. but felt pressure from "a higher authority" to remain quiet about her misgivings.

Cynthia Curry, senior counsel for the Department of General Services, said she first saw the final \$95 million contract with Oracle at 5:30 p.m. on May 31, 2001 -- the day the deal was signed and approved by the Davis administration.

General Services director Barry Keene, told her not to make waves about a contract she thought was flawed. "I really had not seen a contract that had so many people pushing at a higher level of government," Curry stated.

Baheti resigned last week as Davis' director of e-government after admitting he met an Oracle lobbyist over drinks and accepted a \$25,000 check for the governor's re-election campaign. The check was sent to the Davis campaign two weeks after the contract was signed.

The auditor contends taxpayers could end up spending between \$6 million and \$41 million more for database software than if there had been no contract with Oracle.

The contract, however, would commit the state to buying 270,000 Oracle software licenses, even though a state survey found only five out of 127 state agencies expressed interest in Oracle software. The auditor said about 50,000 software licenses would have been closer to the actual need.

Reprinted from the Sacramento Bee

Weekly Quotes

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you really want to test a man's character, give him power."

- Abraham Lincoln

Wordsmith

bribe

Pronunciation: 'brlb

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle English, something stolen, from Middle French, bread given to a beggar

Date: 15th century

1 : money or favor given or promised in order to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust

2 : something that serves to induce or influence

Reprinted from m-w.com

Hyper lynx

They've found lynx hair over there,

And more lynx hair over here.

The endangered lynx

Is OK, methinks,

When there's lynx hair everywhere!

-F.R. Duplantier

Richard Pombo's Guacamole Recipe

3 large ripe avocados

1 tomato, diced

1/4 cup onion, minced

1 small can Ortega green chiles, diced

Half-cup sour cream

2 cloves garlic, smashed

2 tbsp. lemon juice

PREPARATION:

Mash avocados in a large bowl then add other ingredients. Store in airtight container in refrigerator until ready to serve with tortilla chips. For a spicier dip add minced jalapeno when mixing.

Comments from the District

"Are you aware that retired folks like us, in our late sixties, are being forced to consider having to sell our homes so that we can purchase prescription drugs." - **James Martin** - 5/6/02

"Federal civilian employees are able to collect their retirement pay at age 55, and I believe that after 20 years of military service to our country, we should be afforded the same benefit." - **LTC Candy McMorris** - 5/7/02

"If the royalty itself does not bankrupt small and mid-size webcasters, the cost of administering the royalty will if this onerous proposal is finalized." - **Robert McWilliams, Jr.** - 5/1/02

"In order for me to earn the social security benefits I payed into when I retire, the social security offset and windfall elimination provisions must be repealed." - **Shelly Neto** - 5/1/02

"If Israel can ignore the UN, why can't Saddam?" - **Lawrence Stevens** - 5/5/02

You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here:

<http://www.house.gov/pombo/board/board2002/board2002.htm>